

Springfield Area Artists In Experimental TV Show

By LEE SHERIDAN

The current exhibition by the Experimental Television Center of Binghamton, N.Y., at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, N.Y., involves a number of Springfield area artists and performers in its daily schedule of events and constructions, which will continue through Oct. 2.

Exhibition coordinator is video artist Kenneth Dominick of Monson, who is also coordinator of the Experimental TV Center, and whose "Video Construction" is scheduled for all day today, Friday, and Saturday.

Culminating the exhibition, on Oct. 1, at 2 p.m., in the art museum auditorium will be a "Jazz Concert Video Synthesis Chroma Key Interface" by Open Channels, a local group of experimental

jazz musicians. Performing in the concert will be Springfield musicians Fred Tipton, tenor sax, and Don Tipton, guitar; Bill Sharon of East Longmeadow, flute and soprano sax; Al Iannazzo of Ludlow, bass cello and acoustic bass; and Mark Nash of Monson, drums.

"We're really happy about this show," Dominick said in an interview earlier this week, adding that the exhibit is not only popular with the general museum public but is "getting good comments from New York galleries, Syracuse University faculty," and has had a "very positive" Syracuse review.

For the clarification of those who have not been exposed to the new media of video art, Dominick described the "video environment" that will be created in conjunction with the jazz concert. He first explained that there will be three color TVs and a number of black and white TVs in the auditorium, plus a vid-

eo synthesizer and a chroma key switcher.

He described a video synthesizer as "a machine that colorizes black and white images, takes the gray scale and interprets it in terms of colors." One way in which this might work he said is "when a person's face is dramatically lit, the light half would be blue, and the shadowy part would be red."

Dominick said that a chroma key switcher "allows you to manipulate an image by dropping out part of it, then superimposing that part on another image on another camera."

Thus the environment created by cameras, synthesizer, and chroma key switcher will be a visual accompaniment to the music.

His own "Video Construction," Dominick described as "a montage of images" that will form "an electric mosaic object reconstruction." The fractured images will be created by a construction of nine TV sets arranged in three rows of three sets, stacked on top of each other. Nine cameras will be arranged in the same way, all on tripods, all the same focal distance from the object, so that each camera will feed an image into one of the TVs.

"If a person walks through this wall of TVs," Dominick said, "he will create an actual moving image of three separated parts, head, middle, and feet."

Among other performances during the exhibition is "TV Bed Performance" by Charlotte Moorman, in which Miss Moorman plays a cello concert atop a "bed" constructed of 10 video monitors, each of which is showing the image of her playing the concert. "Minimal Piano Performance" will be performed at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 30 by composer, video artist and avant garde musician Nam June Paik.

If such museum exhibitions as this are as yet unknown in Springfield and rare in other parts of the country, they are not unusual in Syracuse.

"Everson is one of the museum's most intensely involved in video," says Ralph Hocking, director of the Experimental TV Center in Binghamton. "It has always been in the forefront of developing what TV can be in the arts."